

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the detailed examination evidenced by the Office Action. Applicants further appreciate the indication that Claims 4, 16, 23, 27, and 35-38 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have amended the claims to place the application in condition for allowance.

Claim Objections have been Overcome:

Applicants submit that the objections on Page 2 of the Office Action for Claims 24 and 33 have been overcome by the following amendments.

Claim 24 has also been amended to recite "patterning" so as to overcome the objection thereto.

The Specification on page 10, line 13 has been amended to recite "using a solvent 2-methoxyethano" to be consistent with originally filed Claim 33. Accordingly, Applicants submit that the claim objection for Claim 33 has been overcome.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC Sec. 112 have been Overcome:

Claim 1 has been amended to recite "an upper interlayer dielectric". Accordingly, Applicants submit that the rejections under 35 USC Sec. 112 as to Claims 5 and 6 have been overcome.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC Secs. 102 and 103 have been Overcome:

Claim 1 has been amended to include the recitations of Claims 2 and 4. Claims 3, 11, and 12 have been amended to depend directly or indirectly from Claim 1. Accordingly, Claim 1 and dependent Claims 3, 5-7, 9-15, and 17-19 are in condition for allowance. Claims 2 and 4 have been canceled.

Claim 16 has been amended to independent form to place it in condition for allowance.

Claim 20 has been amended to include the recitations of Claims 21 and 23. Claims 22, 24, and 30-34 has been amended to depend directly or indirectly from

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Claim 20. Accordingly, Claim 20 and dependent Claims 22, 24-26, 28-34 are in condition for allowance. Claims 21 and 23 have been canceled.

Claim 27 has been amended to independent form to place it in condition for allowance.

Claim 35 has been amended to independent form to place it in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Claims 36-38 which depend from Claim 35 are also in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

In light of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the above-entitled application is now in condition for allowance. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (919) 854-1400.

Respectfully submitted,

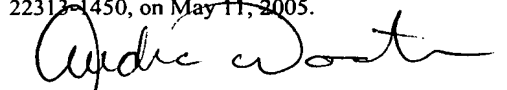


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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: MS AMENDMENT, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on May 11, 2005.


Audra Wooten